



News & Notes

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UNCOVER THIRD MILLENNIUM SETTLEMENTS IN TURKEY

Sept. 18, 1982

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As the nights turn cold, and the tempo of our fieldwork quickens, the disarray of our camp is a sure indication that the end of our third campaign is rapidly nearing. We are scheduled to leave our base, the village of Cumcume, on Wednesday, bringing to a close what has been an unusually carefree season.

Unlike the frantic activity of the past two years, 1982 has been devoted almost entirely to the clearance of our immense backlog of excavated materials. Excavation has been limited, sporadic and aimed mainly at resolving specific problems. Over the course of our two month season (beginning in late July), only three - four weeks have actually been spent digging on the site. In contrast, the field staff has at times reached 21 persons, by far our largest to date. Most are returnees from previous seasons, and the new additions have been either students from Turkish universities or from Chicago (Maggie Brandt and Ron Gorny). Although the demands of so many people have strained our meager accommodations (which would normally suit a maximum of 16-18), it may well be that this creeping expansion will be a continuing trend. For all our numbers, they still seem grossly inadequate for all the necessary tasks.



1982 Field Staff

Brief and sporadic excavation is something so new to my experience that I am hard put to evaluate our results. Since our hope was to prepare our first stage report in the field, excavation was meant only to clarify certain ambiguities in the site history. Only about 15 workers were employed. The two vertical operations (Areas A and CO1) were the main foci of work, since the transition from the early third millennium village to the middle third millennium town was still unclear. Historically, this transition was a key turning point not only for our own site, but for a much wider region.

As it turned out, our preliminary impression of an abrupt change and a dramatic site expansion has been born out. In the step trench (A), supervised by Michael Ingraham, the sounding went beneath the mudbrick "fortification" wall of the middle third millennium. This turned out to be over three meters high and five meters wide, and was preceded by a short period of less substantial remains. Immediately below, we came down onto the topmost layers of the "Late Chalcolithic" Uruk-related period, indicating a gap in occupation in this part of the site. These earlier layers remain to be fully investigated next year, but already, quantities of bevelled rim bowls, and what may be clay "tablet wasters" harbingers of a fascinating new horizon.

In the deep sounding on the small north mound, Mary Evins has also excavated beneath the middle third millennium town level to trace an apparently abrupt transition from the



Leon Marfoe, Nurettin Yardimci (Director General of Antiquities), Prof. Harald Hauptmann (Heidelberg), Adnan Misir (Director, Urfu Museum)



early third millennium levels. It now seems fairly evident that this latter settlement was indeed restricted to only a small portion of the site, although for a considerable period of time, since there are almost four meters of deposit for this period. In the upper levels, there are abundant signs of kiln wasters and firing activity, as well as substantial deposits of cattle bones. Also found was a circular stamp seal impression with evidence of a fiber fastening on the reverse.

Despite the work on the site sequence, the main aim of our excavations is still the horizontal clearance of the settlement during two periods, the late and middle third millennium BC. The problem here has been how to excavate areas on a large and rapid scale, while still retaining a high degree of contextual precision. Our solution, while easy in theory, is difficult in practice. One aspect of this is the gradual refinement of the excavation system in Area D this year, when Bruce Verhaaren tried to combine tight controls with archaeological ruthlessness. In doing so, we have come closer to the conclusion that the architectural complex here was a specialized outpost of some sort. The meager evidence for subsistence activities is so far grossly outweighed by indications of storage and formal layout. So far, there are still no definite signs of the settlement's function, but in many ways, the settlement opens a new chapter in the history of the period around 2000 BC. Generally considered to be a 'Dark Age' both historically and archaeologically, the period is vaguely associated with the



appearance of the Amorite dynasties in Mesopotamia. But in our part of the ancient Near East, archaeological traces that fill this timespan were, until now, nonexistent.

Part of the task of refining our excavation system, too, has focussed on the streamlining of our recording and processing procedures, which are meant to yield fine-grained spatial



differences in activities. These activities are now coming to light. Enough of our backlog has now been cleared in each category of finds to enable us to convert a broad range of information—ceramics, lithics, bone, stratigraphic contexts, etc—into a computer compatible direct entry format, the only solution to the volume of material being recovered. In addition, a lot of this hard, tedious work—on the ceramics by Guillermo Algaze and Ron Gorny, on the chipped stone by Mary McDonald and Maggie Brandt, on the bone by Pati Wattenmaker, and on a variety of other artifacts by Mary Ewins—have allowed us to discern more clearly a variety of domestic, work and garbage areas on the site. We can now isolate differences between areas of fine wares, coarse storage jars and cooking vessels, worked tools and manufacturing debris, animal butchering and disposal, as well as other craft activities and floors continually swept clean. From the standpoint of the historical development of the site, too, Naomi Miller's analysis of the botanical remains points tentatively toward a shift in the proportion of wheat to barley, as well as a more pronounced presence of grape during the establish-



ment of the town. Readers of "News & Notes" may remember Larry Stager's recent issue on the significance of this phenomenon, at least farther south in Palestine.

The only real fieldwork that has proceeded at an accelerated pace this season is the regional survey program carried out by Tony Wilkinson with the aid of Gil Stein, although this may now be better termed "topographic" or "landscape" archaeology rather than "survey". With an area of 30 km² now intensively covered, several major developments are now apparent in our exciting results. Of particular importance is the delineation of three phases of Medieval occupation (during the Abbasid, 12-13th centuries, and Ottoman periods) through

the meticulous seriation of pottery diagnostics by Aslihan Yener. Along with these Medieval sites, we can now define ancient zones of cultivation around them, watermills, crossing points and even relic roadways, as well as a startling complex of urban sprawl and massive earthworks across the plain. Perhaps of equal importance is a newly discovered Neolithic site dating to perhaps the sixth millennium BC, about three meters deep, and extending across an area of 10-15 hectares, perhaps the largest known for this period. Apart from these new results, our continuing emphasis on establishing a firm



ground control for remote sensing, as well as geomorphological studies, are now almost completed for our area, along with a fairly comprehensive overview of local settlement patterns for the Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age periods.

If the excavations have seemed to proceed at a snail's pace this season, our social activities have grown inversely. Indeed, the last three weeks have been a virtual whirlwind of a social season, because our schedule has overlapped with both the summer and autumn campaigns of our international neighbors. The Bryn Mawr team at Grizzle (across the river), directed by Dick Ellis, is by now a well established sister excavation, and of course, we have had exchanges of visits as well as personnel. More recently, the Director General of Antiquities and Museums, Dr. Nurettin Yardimci, also paid us a visit, and this was shortly followed by the Italian (Rome) team excavating at Malatya/Arslantepe, who along with their



director, Alba Palmieri, and a colleague from 1981, Mario Liverani, spent an unexpected overnight visit with us. Excavating in levels partly contemporaneous with ours, they recently discovered over 5000 seal impressions of the Late Chalcolithic period. Our closest neighbor, however, is the German (Heidelberg) mission at Lidar, directed by Harald Hauptmann. With them, we have had a particularly enjoyable



series of visits, parties, as well as exchanges of information. It is impossible to describe the impressiveness of their work or the graciousness of their hospitality, except to say that both are done on a grand scale.

Out of all these activities, the Kurban team has clearly established itself as energetic if not entirely graceful dancers, with the help of totally unsuspected talent and imported veterans. On other occasions too, the idiosyncrasies of our team have continued apace. Consider a series of otherwise indescribable Huck Finn-like episodes on the Euphrates river, as well as the near immolation of a prominent nearby site while on survey, and you begin to appreciate that study seasons need not be entirely dull.

Until our imminent return,

best regards,
Leon Marfoe

Remember our tour to Egypt, Sicily, and China.

See the October News & Notes for details or write or call the Membership Office.

The Membership Office is happy to process Oriental Institute memberships as holiday gifts.

(\$20 in USA & \$25 in foreign)

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Visit the SUQ for your holiday shopping, and remember Oriental Institute members receive a 10% discount on all SUQ purchases. Coupon void after December 31, 1982.

THIRTY-FIVE YEARS OF THE PREHISTORIC PROJECT:

Retrospective Thoughts as the New Oriental Institute
Prehistoric Exhibit Is Mounted

Robert J. Braidwood

We had already had two field seasons of excavation at the early village site of Jarmo when I was invited to give a pair of lectures at the University of Oregon. Called the Condon Lectures, these were then published, in 1952, as *The Near East and the Foundations for Civilization*. The lectures were a joy to prepare and write. There was no complicating evidence from other sites. Only Jarmo and our somewhat earlier site, Karim Shahr--and not very much exposed area of either--were then available for consideration. I assumed that their artifactual yields represented a standard for the critical phases of the "foundations for civilization." Based solely upon what we had recovered, I could paint my own picture of how those foundations were laid.

The generating idea behind excavations at Jarmo and Karim Shahr (on the slopes of the Zagros range in northeastern Iraq) stems from the 1930-40 writings of the late great Australian prehistorian, V. Gordon Childe, then at Edinburgh University. Childe laid great stress upon the importance of the change in human subsistence patterns, from those depending alone upon hunting and collecting to those where a substantial part of the diet came from foods derived from domesticated plants and animals. Childe saw this change as a revolution in human economy: he spoke of it as the food-producing revolution.



View of the site of Jarmo from below

We were not long in being the only archeologists stimulated by Childe's ideas. Because of them and perhaps in part because of interest in our findings at Jarmo, a number of other colleagues soon began to join in the search. New excavations were undertaken, both in the Syro-Palestinian coastal region as well as east of the Tigris in Iraq and Iran. It became increasingly clear that the situation was far more complicated than the picture I had drawn in the Condon Lectures.

For our third field season in Iraq, we received a substantial National Science Foundation grant (one of its earliest to archeologists) which allowed us to have senior natural sciences colleagues--in botany, geology and zoology--in the field with us. The point, of course, was that we were able to assess the kind of environmental situation within which an early village-farming community type of life could develop. Following our third Iraqi field season, however, the monarchy fell in 1958 and there was political instability, especially in the Zagros hill country. We have never been able to revisit Jarmo.

Our brief 1959-60 excavations in Iran mainly expanded the sort of information we had already recovered at Jarmo and Karim Shahr. They had, however, two important consequences. First, they aided in stimulating the interests of Canadian and Danish colleagues for further research of the sort in the same region and spurred two of our own graduate assistants, Hole and Flannery, to plan important research of their own at the site of Ali Kosh, lower on the Zagros piedmont. Second, our geological colleague, H.E. Wright, undertook the recovery of the fossil pollen record in a small lake high in the Zagros. This gave for the first time, really substantial evidence of the vegetational (and climatic) history of the region. It showed that a cold dry sage-brush steppe condition persisted until about 11,000 years ago. In my old Condon Lectures, I had said that conditions then must have been essentially as they are today: it then followed for me, that climatic and environmental changes were not factors in the appearance of food-production. Now, of course, Herb Wright's evidence means that we must consider natural changes as having had at least some role in making the new way of life possible. Without doubt, however, there were other factors involved in the great change, which we do not yet have the evidence to understand.



Excavations at Jarmo

In 1962, thanks to the interest and enthusiasm of Prof. Dr. Halet Çambel, an old friend and colleague in Istanbul, the Istanbul-Chicago Universities' Joint Prehistoric Project was formed. We have now had eight field seasons of excavation at the early village-farming community site of Çayönü in the headwaters hill country of the Tigris River in south-eastern Turkey. Çayönü's radiocarbon age determinations are more reliable and slightly earlier than were Jarmo's, ranging from about 7250-6750 B.C. Indeed, we now know considerably more about life in Çayönü than we learned in only three seasons of field work at Jarmo. Our exposures at Çayönü are far larger, the bulk of antiquities destined for the Diyarbakir Museum far greater, and there is much more evidence of architectural sophistication. At least one type of building plan shows the earliest available approach yet known to true monumentality, but whether of sacred or secular intent, we do not yet know.

During our 1963 surface survey for sites in the southeast of Turkey (which, incidentally, located Çayönü), and since then,

we have found no apparent counterpart of the pre-Jarmo range of materials seen at Karim Shahir. Perhaps the Çayönü uplands were too high and cold, several thousand years earlier, to have allowed the earlier development. Further, along the Zagros, in both Iraq and Iran, not very much more of the Karim Shahirian type of inventory with its small round hut foundations has been recovered since the 1960's. To the west, however, along both the middle Euphrates and especially in the Levantine (Syro-Palestinian) region, the Natufian—a counterpart for the Karim Shahirian—is much better known. It is this range of time and development which continues to fascinate us even more than does the Jarmo-Çayönü range.

Already in 1949, Linda and I were stimulated by an idea of the anthropologist, Julian Steward, that there would be a range of "incipience" of food-production. What we see at sites such as Jarmo and Çayönü is evidence of an already effective village-farming community way of life. Essentially, the threshold has already been crossed.

Clearly, the answers to the most fascinating questions about how the great change was achieved will be found during the earlier phase of incipience or inchoateness. It was then that the peoples of the Near East were first experimenting—quite unconsciously—with the manipulation of those plants and animals of gregarious habits, some of which manipulations led to domestication. In doing so, these unnamed Near Eastern peoples of 10,000 or more years ago all unwittingly devised an incipient pattern of food-production. By Jarmo-Çayönü times, it had become effective. Within a few thousand years—(remember there were about four million years of hominid development beforehand!)—the food-producing way of life allowed the appearance of civilized, literate, urban societies.

Come to think of it, we still depend today, very largely, on the food-producing pattern set by those prehistoric Near Easterners.

You are cordially invited

to attend a

Turkish Bazaar

Opening Reception:

Thursday, November 18

5:30 – 7:30 PM

All items direct from Turkey: Copper, Brass, Rugs, & Jewelry. Some items personally selected by our Curator, Mr. John Carswell while recently in Turkey.

GIFT CERTIFICATES

Gift certificates are now available from The Suq. Call 753-2484 or write The Suq, The Oriental Institute, 1155 E. 58th St., Chicago, IL 60637.

DECEMBER LECTURE

Janet H. Johnson, Professor at the Oriental Institute, and Donald Whitcomb, Research Fellow at the Smithsonian Institution and Research Associate at the Oriental Institute, will present an illustrated lecture entitled, **Egypt and the Red Sea Trade** on Wednesday, December 8 at 8 PM in Breasted Hall.

NOVEMBER REMINDER

Kent Flannery, Professor of Anthropology and Curator of the Museum of Anthropology of the University of Michigan will present an illustrated lecture, **Jarmo's Legacy: The Worldwide Search for Early Food Production**, at 8 PM on Monday, November 15 in Breasted Hall. The opening of the new prehistoric exhibit, **The Quest for Prehistory: The Oriental Institute and the Origins of Civilization in the Near East**, will take place in the museum from 5 to 7 PM on the same day.



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WINTER WORKSHOPS FOR CHILDREN:

Saturday, January 22 • 10am–12pm
ARCHAEOLOGY WORKSHOP

Gallery tour: A look at some of the Museum objects with reference to how they were found and brought back to the Museum.

Project: Piecing together broken pots to get the feel of one kind of work that an archaeologist does.

Saturday, January 29 • 10am–12pm
SPORTS AND GAMES IN THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST

Gallery tour: A tour emphasizing objects that show sports and recreations throughout the ANE from hunting lions, the sport of kings, to games of knucklebones, sport of the common man.

Project: An opportunity to create a gameboard for an ANE game.

SPECIAL TEACHERS' WORKSHOP

FOR THE NEW EXHIBIT

THE QUEST FOR PREHISTORY

featuring excavators,

Professor Robert Braidwood and Linda Braidwood

Saturday, December 4, 10:00 – 12:30

Reservations required: Five dollar fee

Call Education Office: 753-2573 for registration

Agenda:

- INTRODUCTION TO JARMO EXCAVATIONS
Archeologists Robert and Linda Braidwood
- TOUR OF EXHIBIT by the Braidwoods
- COFFEE BREAK
- SUGGESTIONS FOR CLASSROOM USE
Joan Barghusen, Educational Coordinator

Special programs for school groups are available and include tours, films, and gallery worksheet.
Call 753-2573 for information. If no answer, leave message at 753-2475.

This is a double issue of News and Notes; the next one will not be mailed until late in December. So we would like to be the very first to wish you a very happy holiday season.



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